

To: ORD-Exec-Council-Directors[Execcouncildirectors@epa.gov]; ORD-Mgmt-Council[ORDMgmtCouncil@epa.gov]
Cc: ORD-IOAA-Front Office Support[ORDIOAASUPPORT@epa.gov]; Lehman, Rachel[lehman.rachel@epa.gov]
From: Bahadori, Tina
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NCEA 30 Day Outlook 2-7-18.docx

**National Center for Environmental Assessment
Weekly Report for February 7th, 2017**

Notables listed below and 30-day Outlook attached.

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

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OW-Region6-AK Workshop. NCEA's Susan Cormier was invited by the Office of Water and Region 6 to present on February 7th at a workshop for the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) in Little Rock, AR. The workshop, Tools for Assessing Stream Dissolved Minerals, will highlight and present approaches and analyses available to Arkansas including choosing what and how to measure dissolved minerals, setting upper limit criterion, conducting causal and confounding assessments, and site-specific approaches to predicting background conductivity and extirpation. In addition, the workshop will present tools such as the Biological Extirpation Analysis Tool (BEAT), the Stream Conductivity Explorer, and the Causal Analysis Diagnosis and Decision Information System (CADDIS).

Inorganic Arsenic Briefing for New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and Region 1. On February 12th, Janice Lee, Allen Davis, Jeff Gift, and Ingrid Druwe will be meeting with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and EPA Region 1 to provide a briefing on state of the science and progress on the inorganic arsenic assessment.

Discussion with the Department of Defense. On February 14th – 15th, Kris Thayer, Emma Lavoie, David Bussard and other NCEA scientists will travel to Aberdeen, MD to discuss evidence integration methods with DoD. Iris Camacho from OPPT and potentially others from OLEM may participate as well.

Gene Drives and Ecological Risk Assessment Presentation at North Carolina State

University. On February 13th, Caroline Ridley will give a presentation about potentially novel aspects of the ecological risk assessment process when applied to gene drive organisms on the campus of North Carolina State University. Glenn Suter is a co-author on this presentation.

Presentation on stream continuous data quality control to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). On February 14th, David Gibbs (ORISE Fellow) will demonstrate a web app he is developing for performing Quality Control checks on continuous temperature and water level data from stream sensors. Wisconsin DNR is interested in using the web app for their water quality monitoring and citizen science sensor programs.

Science Expo at Baucom Elementary School. On February 13th, Steve Dutton is invited to participate in a science expo at Baucom Elementary School in Apex, NC. Organizers have brought together volunteers working in math, science, and engineering fields to inspire elementary school students to learn more about the sciences and to evaluate projects the kids have created for the science expo.

Science Support for PFAS Study. Wright State University has asked NCEA's Michael Wright to provide consultation towards design of an epidemiological study on PFAS exposures in firefighters and bone mineral density.

Declaration of DOJ for a Civil Action Law Suit re Alleged Illegal Filling of a Wetlands. Malcolm Field signed a declaration for the Department of Justice (DOJ) in regard to Civil Action 09-cv-55 (WMS) (and consolidated case 12-cv-1146) known formally as United States of America, Plaintiff, v. Acquest Transit LLC, Acquest Development LLC and William L. Huntress, Defendants. The case involves the alleged illegal filling of wetlands by the defendants. The Declaration submitted by Malcolm, outlining his educational background, experience, and recognized expertise as an international expert in tracer hydrology, will be used by DOJ in support of their Motion for Summary Judgement.

WITHIN EPA

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IRIS PCB Assessment and Region 2. Laura Carlson and Geniece Lehmann will meet with EPA Region 2 and scientists from OLEM in February (dates TBD) to discuss the IRIS PCB Assessment. Laura and Geniece will provide an update on current activities of the PCB

Assessment Team, and solicit input about the needs for the assessment and specific issues their region/office is facing regarding PCBs.

PRODUCTS AND PUBLICATIONS

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“Leveraging Human Genetic and Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP) Data to Inform Susceptibility in Human Health Risk Assessment.” Michelle Angrish and Janice Lee are co-authors on the following manuscript that has been accepted by Mammalian Genome: ***“Leveraging Human Genetic and Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP) Data to Inform Susceptibility in Human Health Risk Assessment.”***

Multiple Papers on Methods to Develop Chronic and Acute Criteria for Salinity. Susan Cormier has a set of five papers that have been accepted to a special section of Science of the Total Environment. These papers present several methods that may be used to develop chronic and acute criteria for salinity with sparse data and illustrate the methods with case examples. The methods described in this set of five papers are being considered as part of the U.S. EPA’s revision of its 1985 Guidelines for developing ambient water quality criteria.

OTHER RECENT EVENTS OF INTEREST

Children’s Health and NIEHS. On January 31st, Erin Hines met with Brandi Beverly and Kembra Howdeshell of NIEHS’s Office of Health Assessment and Translation (OHAT) about the NIEHS Systematic Review Scoping Document on Traffic Related Air Pollution and Children's Health. Erin serves as a technical advisor to OHAT for this project.

Lead Modeling Presented at ATSDR-EPA Manager Forum. On February 1st, James Brown was asked to speak at an ATSDR-EPA Managers Forum. James discussed EPA’s cross agency efforts to move the All Ages Lead Model (AALM) into peer-review. ATSDR will likely start using the AALM in addition to the EPA’s Integrated Exposure Uptake Biokinetic (IEUBK) model this year for some its site assessments.

North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Support. On February 6th, Jeff Gift and Allen Davis provided benchmark dose software (BMDS) training to the State of North Carolina. The NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will be considering how to

analyze and interpret the available GenX study data to help inform their risk management decisions for exposures in drinking water. In this training, Jeff and Alan provided training and examples focused on the needs for NC DEQ to perform those analyses, and tailored to their immediate needs.

RECOGNITION

Toastmasters Advanced Gold Communicator. Bette Zwayer has just received “Advanced Communicator Gold” recognition from Toastmasters International. This is the highest award in Toastmaster’s communication program. The communication program is a self-paced training program that helps participants improve their speaking skills in a club environment.

February STEMbassador. Adam Benson (ORISE Fellow) was selected as the February STEMbassador. The STEMbassador program noted, “Adam is an ORISE Fellow with NCEA and, during the past year, he has participated in a record 15 Speed Mentoring sessions on the EPA-RTP Campus! Cumulatively, this means that Adam has shared his work, education, and enthusiasm one-on-one with nearly 100 middle, high school, and college students during these 5-minute mentoring opportunities.”

Tina Bahadori, Sc.D.

Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment (EPA/ORD/NCEA)

National Program Director, Human Health Risk Assessment (EPA/ORD/HHRA)

RRB Room 71210; Telephone: 202-564-7903; Mobile: 202-680-8771